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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Comments on U.S. NEWS AND WORLD  
REPORT Interview with John A. McCone (12/19/60).

1. Given below are my views on the subject interview.

2. The subject interview follows very much the same line which Chairman McCone has made continuously in speeches over the past year or more, i.e., that the test suspension is dangerous to this country, the Russians are not negotiating seriously, and that they are probably continuing clandestine nuclear tests and thereby achieving major gains vis-a-vis the U. S. In particular, his answer to the third question on page 72 is contrary to the existing NIE. Looking at the same evidence, the Intelligence Community has all reached the conclusion that balancing the potential gains versus the risk of detection, it appears unlikely that the Soviets have been conducting clandestine nuclear tests.

3. We have recently heard the Air Force briefing purporting to provide evidence of clandestine Soviet tests and we are making a detailed analysis of all the material presented. Based on my present knowledge, I believe the Air Force has provided no significantly new information and has primarily twisted the raw data to prove a pre-judgment. When we have analyzed the material in detail, we can brief you more fully on it. It is my understanding that the Air Force is trying to brief Chairman McCone but that to date they have not been able to find a satisfactory time.

4. The references to Chinese atomic weapons program tend to underestimate intelligence knowledge on this subject. However, from

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.

Assistant Director  
Scientific Intelligence

Enclosure

Magazine Article

(Dec. 19, 1960 issue)

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cc: Secy S